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BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT



ANNUAL REPORT

by the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year

1953

Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953

Chairman :

MR. ALDERMAN KEENE

Vice-Chairman :

MISS ALDERMAN MANN

MR. ALDERMAN	LANG	MR. COUNCILLOR	JENSEN
„	PALMER	„	NEWSON
„	WALLER	MRS. „	NOBBS
MRS. „	WING	MR. „	OLDMAN
MR. COUNCILLOR	CROFT	„	PRETTY
„	DANN	„	SANDERS
„	DURRANT	„	THOMPSON
„	FINCH	„	TRIBE
„	GOWER	„	WARD
„	GRIFFITHS	„	WELLS
„	HORTON	MRS. „	WOOD-GREAVES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Borough School Medical Officer :

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Deputy Borough School Medical Officer :

ISABELLA SIM, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Port Health Inspector :

H. CORMACK, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Deputy Port Health Inspector :

F. W. Y. BUCKLEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

R. WELCH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (resigned November, 1953)	L. BAILEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
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Combined Health Visitors and School Nurses :

MISS D. GUEST	MISS M. GUEST	MISS R. STILES
MISS M. SHIPPERBOTTOM		MISS J. COSSNETT
		(commenced April, 1953)

Chief Clerk :

R. CAPON

*Health Department,
123, High Street,
Lowestoft.*

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of your Borough for the year 1953, a year which will be long remembered for the flooding which occurred at the end of January. The details of the work which this event produced are recorded elsewhere in this report, and it is with satisfaction that I am able to say that the department was able to cope with the problems which arose, there being no untoward events from the health point of view following this disaster. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking every member of my staff for the willing manner in which they rose to the emergency and worked hard to restore things to normal in as short a time as possible.

Much of the work which goes on in the Health Department is routine in nature and unless something goes wrong, does not enjoy much publicity. The work carried out under the Chief Sanitary Inspector's supervision has been recorded in some detail in this report, and after reading it, one must agree that a very great deal is done towards ensuring that the public shall not suffer from low standards of hygiene. Readers will know that there is still much room for improvement in some food handling establishments, but this report will indicate that your health department is alert to this problem and do what they can to encourage still further improvements. The next big step forward can only come through the public demanding a higher standard themselves.

The birthrate in the Borough continues to fall and is now below that for England and Wales. For the first few years after the war, however, the birthrate was well above the average.

I would like to draw particular attention to the further development of the Home Help Service. Many more cases have been helped and much of the increase has been in the care of old people, thus helping to relieve one at least of the difficulties which this age group has to face under present conditions.

I am pleased to be able to report that there has been an increase in the attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres. There is a tendency at present to decry the usefulness of these centres. However, those who are familiar with the difficulties which confront the young mother, who by force of circumstance has nowadays had little opportunity of acquiring practical mothercraft knowledge, will agree that they are to-day as important a factor in disseminating advice and instruction in baby care as ever they were. It is not too much to claim that the admitted improvement in the health of the youngsters to-day, is in great measure due to the advice and instruction which has been given from these centres during the past few years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<i>Totals</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	562	283	279
	Illegitimate	39	18	21
		—	—	—
		601	301	300
		—	—	—

*Comparative
Figures for
England and Wales*

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1953 13.85 15.5

STILLBIRTHS

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			
<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
20	15	5	
			24.59 22.4

DEATHS per 1,000 estimated population 9.77 11.4

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	19.67	28.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	—	—
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	19.67	—

DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes —

Comment on Vital Statistics.

The birthrate continues to fall ; the figures since the war being :—
 1946—907, 1947—1020, 1948—837, 1949—716,
 1950—703, 1951—693, 1952—648, 1953—601.

As will be seen, the rate is now considerably below that for the country as a whole.

Deaths for all ages, per 1,000 estimated population, are well below the comparative figure, and the deaths of infants under one year of age shows a very satisfactory low level compared with the figure for England and Wales.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year together with the figures for 1952 and 1951.

Disease	1953	1952	1951
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	80	63
Diphtheria	—	3
Poliomyelitis	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Typhoid	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	1
Dysentery	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	21	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Erysipelas	3	3
Whooping Cough	68	16
Measles	304	550

FOOD POISONING

Two cases of food poisoning were reported during the year this being the same number as the previous year.

Last year it will be recalled, concern was shown at the reappearance of diphtheria in the Borough. I am pleased to report that no such cases were notified this year. Measles is now the most troublesome of the infectious diseases and there is little that can be done to lower its incidence until some specific immunising agent can be produced.

Improved immunising reagents against whooping cough are now being used in the Borough, which, it is hoped, will reduce the incidence of the disease still further.

STATISTICS.

Area (including foreshore) (Acres)	.....	.....	5,495
Population at 1951 Census	.....	.....	42,837
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1953	.....	.....	43,400
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st December, 1953	.....	.....	12,923
Rateable value—31st December, 1953	.....	.....	£285,533
Sum represented by a penny rate 1953/54			£1,127 18s. 11d.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death for the year. The total number of deaths within the Borough during the year was 424.

<i>Cause of Death</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	4	2	6
Syphilitic Disease	.....	1	1	2
Other infective and parasitic disease	.....	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	8	5	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	8	3	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	—	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	26	20	46	
Leukaemia	.....	—	1	1
Diabetes	.....	3	4	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	23	43	66
Coronary disease, angina	.....	50	21	71
Hypertension with heart disease	.....	2	6	8
Other heart disease	.....	26	35	61
Other circulatory disease	.....	11	9	20
Influenza	.....	—	2	2
Pneumonia	.....	6	5	11
Bronchitis	.....	8	8	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	1	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	5	—	5
Congenital malformations	.....	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	22	10	32
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	7	—	7
All other accidents	.....	5	3	8
Suicide	.....	3	1	4
		—	—	—
		226	198	424
		—	—	—

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service has continued to provide domestic help for expectant mothers, and aged and chronic sick. Help was provided for 257 cases throughout the year compared with 197 cases in 1952. The number of enrolled Home Helps at the end of the year was 91 compared with 74 in 1952 and the total number of hours of help provided amounted to 43,307, this being an increase of over 6,000 hours on the 1952 figure.

Analysis of Help Provided

	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Old Age</i>	<i>Sickness</i>
No. of cases assisted	71	5	99	72
<i>Hours worked</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Tuberculosis and other Sickness</i>	<i>Old Age</i>	
	5,940	17,343	20,024	

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The following table shows the number of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough for the year with comparative figures for 1952.

Centre	1953			1952		
	0-1	1-5	Total	0-1	1-5	Total
Connaught House	2000	757	2757	1929	795	2724
Southwell Road	1510	226	1736	1377	159	1536
Oulton Broad	727	209	936	606	75	681
Total attendances at three centres			5429			4941

ANTENATAL CLINICS

Attendances at the Borough Antenatal Clinics numbered 262 compared with 883 in 1952.

The Postnatal and Family Planning Clinics have been continued, 9 attendances being recorded at the former and 177 for the latter.

HEALTH VISITING

The total number of visits carried out by the Health Visitors within the Borough during the year was 12,787 compared with 13,064 in 1952.

DISTRICT NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Number of attendances made by district nurses :

1950	1951	1952	1953
25,909	33,878	50,137	42,008

Number of deliveries attended by district midwives :

1950	1951	1952	1953
397	461	548	509

OULTON BROAD

Bacteriological sampling of the water in Oulton Broad has been continued both by officers of the Health Department and by the Fishery Superintendent of the River Board.

The Biological Oxygen Demand figures obtained during the past few years make interesting reading :—

Date	Yacht Station	Centre of Broad
16th September, 1950	6.8 p.p.m.	5.1 p.p.m.
6th November, 1950	0.6	0.9
27th January, 1951	4.5	3.4
10th August, 1951	13.1	11.9
29th August, 1952	8.5	7.5
13th February, 1953	3.8	3.1
21st July, 1953	12.1	9.4
19th August, 1953	9.0	8.0

As one would expect, pollution is heavier in the summer months.

A useful step forward in dealing with the problem of sewage pollution of the Broads as a whole, took place during the year with the formation of a Sub-Committee to look into this question ; its findings being reported to the Broads Joint Advisory Committee.

Action on some of this Committee's recommendation has already taken place and an extension of this work may lead, in time, to a considerable improvement in the sanitary condition of the Broads.

Some interesting experiments were carried out during the year in conjunction with Messrs. Truman, Boat Builders, Oulton Broad, to ascertain whether a pure water could be obtained from the Broad water by mechanical filtration. It was found that a water described by the bacteriologist as "typical polluted water" could be rendered suitable "for general domestic use" by passing through a Type "C" Metafilter. These filters are small and comparatively simple to use and could well be fitted to hire craft, thus enabling Broads' water to be used for such purposes as washing up, etc., with safety. A considerable saving might then be made in the size of the fresh water tanks in the boats.

Sunshine

Sun hours were below the yearly normal by 111.3 hours.

Sunniest day 29th June—15.3 hours.

Rain

Greatest fall in a day 0.66 inches—19th August.

Rain was below the yearly normal by 6.22 inches.

Date of last ground frost of Spring—12th May.

Date of first ground frost of Autumn—5th November.

After 17th March there were no further air frosts during the year.

Snow completely covered the ground on six days.

Barometer Readings

Highest: 30.828, March 10th, 1953 (attached thermometer 69 degrees).

Lowest: 29.276, November 1st, 1953 (attached thermometer 65 degrees).

Sunless days—84.

Rain days (i.e. 0.2 millimetres or more)—133.

Winds (to eight points of the Compass)

Month	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.	Calm	Totals
January	1	3		1	3	7	7	7	2	31
February	2	6			1	2	7	10		28
March	3	5	6	5	4	3		4	1	31
April	1	6	5	3	6	4	1	4		30
May	4	4	3	6	4	4		6		31
June	6	7		3	2	5	2	4	1	30
July	1	3		1	4	11	5	6		31
August				8	1	7	5	10		31
September			3	3	3	6	12	3		30
October	5	3	1	5	3	4	6	4		31
November				3	1	15	8	3		30
December			4	5	3	5	8	5	1	31
	23	37	22	43	35	73	61	66	5	365

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVER FOR 1953

Month	1953 Normal	1953 Normal	1953					
			Sun		Rain		Average Daily Temperature	
			1953 Normal	1953 Normal	1953 Normal	1953 Normal	Highest Max.	Lowest Min.
January	32.5	62.0	0.96	1.67	37.1	39.1	55
February	74.3	79.0	1.36	1.40	39.9	39.7	57
March	110.4	142.0	0.30	1.61	40.7	41.9	64
April	166.1	177.0	1.74	1.48	45.2	45.7	57
May	247.7	219.0	1.14	1.61	53.1	50.9	76
June	158.8	209.0	1.83	1.81	56.3	56.5	72
July	213.3	220.0	2.51	2.27	61.0	60.5	75
August	224.6	207.0	2.30	2.20	61.7	61.3	80
September	197.6	170.0	1.61	1.96	57.5	57.9	71
October	86.8	118.0	1.67	2.79	52.6	51.9	72
November	61.7	69.0	0.96	2.35	47.1	44.8	56
December	34.1	47.0	0.88	2.33	45.2	40.7	58
		1607.7	1719.0			17.26	23.48	

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Highest Maximum 80 degrees—13th August. Lowest Maximum 32 degrees—7th February.
 Lowest Minimum 23 " 8th February. Highest Minimum 66 " 14th August.
 Lowest Grass Min. 14 degrees—8th February.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company Ltd., and the Secretary and Accountant J. M. Boon, Esq., informs me that during the year the average daily consumption was 1,730,260 gallons, and of this figure 648,471 gallons per day was supplied to trades. This is an overall increase of 6.2% on the 1952 consumption. The daily consumption per head of estimated population (domestic and trade combined) is 36 gallons.

Monthly samples of the water are submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and the reports indicate that the supply is pure and wholesome, of the highest standard of bacterial purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The monthly reports are practically identical and a specimen report of a sample taken on 15.12.53 is set out below:—

Chemical

Appearance .....	.....	.....	Bright with a few mineral particles.
Colour .....	.....	.....	9
p.H .....	.....	.....	7.3
Electric Conductivity .....	.....	.....	500
Chlorine present as Chloride .....	.....	.....	56
Hardness : Total 200 .....	.....	.....	Carbonate 125 Non-carbonate 75
Nitrate Nitrogen .....	.....	.....	1.0
*Ammoniacal Nitrogen .....	.....	.....	0.003
*Albuminoid Nitrogen .....	.....	.....	0.082
Metals. Iron : .....	.....	.....	0.05 Other metals absent
Turbidity .....	.....	.....	Less than 3
Odour .....	.....	.....	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide .....	.....	.....	9
Total Solids .....	.....	.....	335
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate .....	.....	.....	125
Nitrate Nitrogen .....	.....	.....	Approx. 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed .....	.....	.....	1.1
Residual Chlorine .....	.....	.....	0.06

*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.

Bacteriological

No. of colonies developing on agar.

1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.

0 per ml. 0 per ml. 0 per ml.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.

Bac. Coli. (Type I). Absent from 100 ml.

C. Welchic Reaction. Absent from 100 ml.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The scheme for providing main drainage in the South Lowestoft and Carlton Colville area, in conjunction with the Lothingland R.D.C. is still in the hands of the Ministry, who have requested further information from this and adjacent authorities.

There are 198 houses within the Borough using pail closets and seven earth closets and sixteen pail closets are in use in industrial premises. There are approximately 258 properties connected to cesspools, some of these cesspools are emptied weekly whilst others are emptied only twice yearly.

The possibility of the extension of sewers to eliminate some or all of the above cesspools is being actively investigated in the Borough Engineer's Department.

Three pail closets were converted to water closets, one being connected to a cesspool and the remaining two to main drainage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year, approximately 12,200 tons of refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. The Lothingland R.D.C. has had the use of the tips and an agreement exists between the two Authorities covering payment for this facility.

Tipping operations as anticipated were completed at Burnt Hill Pit early in the year and a small pit near Oulton Road was also filled. Both these pits were covered with top soil during the year.

Toward the latter part of the summer, tipping operations began in a disused sand pit in Burton Grove/Hollingsworth Road. Owing to the proximity of dwelling houses it was necessary to ensure that strict attention was paid to the principles of controlled tipping. Concern was expressed by certain members of the public before tipping operations commenced, and to allay any doubts about the efficiency of properly controlled tipping the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector addressed a public meeting on the subject. Photographs of tipping operations in various parts of the country were shown. There was only a very small attendance and one presumes that, as operations had been in progress some few months prior to the meeting, the fears at first expressed were found to be groundless.

Up to the end of the year not one complaint had been received about the tipping operations.

There are a number of sites within the Borough which are at present eyesores, and it would be worthwhile using these for controlled tipping, if only to prevent their further misuse as unauthorised tips. Indiscriminate tipping does, at times, become a real problem.

The amount of refuse disposed of yearly is increasing and it is becoming imperative to look for suitable sites for some years ahead.

Refuse was collected from 13,351 premises, 34 men being employed with 7 refuse vehicles.

Street cleansing is carried out by 23 men with orderly trucks and a mechanical gully emptier is used for routine cleansing and flushing of street gullies.

The Council considered the introduction of a Municipal Dustbin Scheme and it is anticipated that the scheme will be operational during 1954.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Accumulations	54	Animals, etc.	19
Ashbins	107	Caravan and Camping sites	80
Cesspools	36	Conveniences	10
Dirty Houses	52	Dirty persons	3
Drainage	414	Drain Tests	18
Factories and Outworkers	289	Houses let in Lodgings	16
Offensive Smells	28	Offensive trades	10
Passages	31	Piggeries	3
Public Conveniences	6	Rats and Mice	98
Smoke Observations	27	Temporary Buildings	2
Water Supply	94	Miscellaneous matters	286
Verminous Premises	225	Disinfection after infectious	
Infectious Disease enquiries	5	disease	23

HOUSING

Houses defects and nuisances (Public Health Act)	529
Houses (Housing Act)	1,426
Overcrowding (Housing Act)	28

NOTICES

Informal notices served	571
Statutory notices served	284
(120 Public Health Act, 151 Housing Act, 13 Lowestoft Corporation Act)	
Informal notices complied with	432
Statutory notices complied with	249
(109 Public Health Act, 140 Housing Act, 13 Lowestoft Corporation Act)	

Defects remedied and nuisances abated included :—

Accumulations cleared	3	Ceilings repaired	31
Ceilings renewed	2	Cesspools repaired	8
Chimney repairs	40	Cooking ranges repaired	13
Cooking ranges renewed	8	Door repairs	32
Dustbins provided	86	Drains repaired	21
Dampness abated	10	Damp proof courses inserted	3
Drains cleared (involving 284 houses)	78	New drainage inspection chambers	6
Eavesgutters repaired	31	Eavesgutters renewed	6
Fireplaces repaired	27	Fireplaces renewed	7
Floors repaired	41	Floors renewed	4
Handrails repaired	1	Handrails renewed	2
Houses cleansed	9	Offensive smells abated	6
Passages paved and drained	5	Rainwater pipes repaired	18
Roofs repaired	82	Sinks renewed	8
Stairways repaired	4	Wallplaster repaired	70
Walls (brickwork) repaired	30	Washboilers repaired	10
Washboilers renewed	1	Waste pipes repaired	8
Water closet conversions	3	Water closets (new)	2
Water closets repaired	55	Water supplies provided	11
Windows repaired	73	Yards repaired	10

RODENT CONTROL

The systematic survey of the whole of the Borough which was commenced in November 1952, was completed just before the end of the year. The complete survey figures show that 14,751 premises (comprising houses, allotments, business premises, waste ground, local authority properties, farms and smallholdings) were inspected. Rats were found on 1,186 premises, mice on 389 premises and both rats and mice on 18 premises. Treatments were carried out within one week of the initial survey and any rat proofing or defective drains needing attention were dealt with at the same time.

In addition to the above treatments 437 premises were treated as a result of complaints from the public.

Warfarin and oatmeal were used as poison and bait on most of the infestations and it was again found that complete clearance of rats and mice was possible by using this poison.

Two treatments of the sewers were again carried out during the year and it appears that the infestations are centred around the same areas each time. No doubt a number of surface infestations are due to rats migrating from the sewers via defective drainage systems which are not always apparent. Two sewer treatments per year reduces the rat population for a time but in my opinion does not reach the "hard core" of the infestation. There must be a number of disused drains in the older parts of the town which act as breeding centres for the rats, and baiting at manholes on the sewers which are some distance apart must mean that some rats never get access to the poison. How to reach these rats with poison is a problem and one which I believe is exercising the minds of the Research Division of the Ministry.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Sixty-nine premises were disinfested for bugs, fleas and cockroaches. D.D.T. liquid and powder insecticides were mainly used and again proved to be effective in most cases. Cockroach and ant infestations were found to be the most difficult ones to deal with. A new powder insecticide, "Pybuthrin" was tried on a small scale for dealing with cockroach infestations and the result fully justified the manufacturer's claims. This insecticide will be used next year exclusively on cockroach infestations. Ants were prevalent last year in various parts of the Borough but more particularly in areas which had been subjected to flooding; without claiming complete eradication of the ants we did achieve a reasonable control over them.

At the end of June, notification was received of a heavy and widespread infestation by earwigs of houses in an area comprising the southern part of the Whitton Housing Estate. A preliminary survey was carried out between the hours of 9 p.m. and midnight on June 25th and it appeared that the centres of infestation were in the roofs and gardens of the houses in the area. The soffit boards of the roofs were literally black with earwigs and every house wall had its own quota of the pests.

During the course of the next week the roof spaces of 147 houses were disinfested with D.D.T. smokes and 206 houses treated with D.D.T. powder insecticide. After 3 days there was a noticeable decrease in the infestation.

It was later found that heavy infestations were centred in the holes and joints of the concrete fencing posts to each garden and every post was sprayed with liquid D.D.T. insecticide. As many as 30 to 40 earwigs were found in a single hole in some of the posts and the insecticide destroyed them in a matter of a few seconds.

Without claiming complete eradication of the infestation, it was noted that within 8 days after the disinfection commenced the householders appeared to be satisfied that the work carried out had been successful.

The area affected comprised Oakwood Road, Springfield Gardens, Greenfield Road, Briarwood Road, Homefield Avenue, Southfield Gardens and parts of Eastwood Road and Pinewood Avenue.

A survey was made of the remaining houses on the estate, but no complaints of infestation were made.

The cost of labour and materials in dealing with this earwig infestation amounted to £51 6s. 4d.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Several complaints were again received regarding the emission of black smoke from factory chimneys. Advantage was taken of the services of the Technical Advisors of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. It was proved that with the right type of fuel and proper care with the stoking of the boilers, smoke emission could be reduced to an absolute minimum and arrangements were made for proper fuel to be supplied to the factories concerned. The owners concerned were at all times most co-operative and anxious to prevent any nuisance from smoke.

FACTORIES ACT

At the commencement of the East Anglian herring season, the new welfare block on the Hamilton Road pickling plots was completed, and the facilities provided were much appreciated by the workers using the same. It is hoped that full use will be made of the pickling plots now that these up-to-date facilities have been provided.

Inspections were made of all the pickling plots and fish curing establishments in the Borough and all these premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, after the premises had been made to comply with the various requirements.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1953

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—*INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

Premises	Number of		
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices
			Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	65	159	24
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	227	174	12
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	15	—
Total	302	348	36

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	18	18	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	5	5	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	2	2	1
(b) unsuitable or defective	12	10	3
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—
TOTAL	37	35	4

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110		Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel Making, etc.	3	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	208	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc.	18	—	—	—
Total	229	—	—	—

SWIMMING BATHS

Four samples of the water from the swimming pool at Oulton Broad were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination by the Pathologist at the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich.

All the samples were satisfactory. The water used is town's water subjected to continuous chlorination.

HOUSING

259 new houses were erected in the Borough during 1953, of these 93 were built by private enterprise builders and 166 by the Council.

21 houses were demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Four houses were closed and two parts of buildings were closed as being unfit for human habitation.

122 houses were made fit as a result of informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts and 84 houses were made fit as a result of formal action. In 6 cases it was necessary for the Council to carry out the works in default of compliance by the owners of the houses concerned.

SLUM CLEARANCE

No slum clearance schemes were attempted during the year but the Minister of Housing and Local Government has urged Local Authorities once again to commence this work. Within 12 months of the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill a survey will be needed of all the proposed slum property in the Borough and the results of the survey together with the Council's proposals will have to be forwarded to the Ministry for their information and approval.

EAST COAST FLOODS

The night of January 31st, 1953, will long be remembered as the night of the East Coast Floods and Lowestoft, in company with the other towns on the East Coast received a further demonstration of the tremendous power of the wind and the sea. When the floods were at their height it was a magnificent, awe-inspiring spectacle, but with the dawn came the "Day of Reckoning." Early on the Sunday morning an emergency meeting of the Corporation officials, Police Officers, Welfare Officers, Gas, Electricity and Water Engineers, representatives from the W.V.S., Civil Defence, Territorial Army, Fire Brigade, together with representatives from various other Voluntary Organisations was held in the Magistrates Court and presided over by the Mayor, Councillor W. H. B. Sanders, when a plan of campaign was devised. St. Margaret's Institute was opened as a rest centre for flood victims and arrangements made for feeding and sleeping the various families. Tours were made of the flood areas and the various reports were considered at later meetings during the day.

As a precautionary measure the Medical Officer of Health contacted the Water Company and asked for extra chlorination in case the water supply had been contaminated. The extra chlorination was taken off three days later when the Water Company reported that their water mains were undamaged.

Christ Church Hall was later opened as a rest centre and distribution centre and the "Advent Hall" was utilised by the W.V.S. and Red Cross as a distribution centre.

As with the other departments of the Corporation the work caused by the floods threw a heavy strain on the Health Department staff, consequently the every-day work, with the exception of meat inspection, went by the board and every effort was concentrated on the flooded areas.

When the floods receded a sea of mud was left behind and as a precaution against any outbreak of disease, disinfectant was issued to householders for use in scrubbing floors, etc. Access holes were cut in boarded floors and the sub-floor space sprayed with liquid disinfectant and also powder disinfectant. Boys from some of the schools were brought down by the masters and were of great assistance in cleaning floors and furniture in the houses where the occupants were infirm or aged. Sawdust was distributed to assist in the drying of floors and firewood chopped by the boys and no doubt most of the boys were sorry when they had to return to school.

An inspection was made of all the food shops, stores, etc., in the flooded areas, damaged stock was examined and where it was found to be unfit for food, arrangements were made for the collection and disposal of the same.

Carpets, cushions, bedding and mattresses were collected where necessary and cleansed and dried in the Corporation disinfector.

On the 13th February, two leading aircraftsmen, Coote and Norris, arrived from the R.A.F. station at Benson with two NUWAY R.A.F. heaters for use in drying out the flooded houses and up to March 31st, when they were recalled to their units, they assisted in the drying out of 292 houses. These machines operated on petroleum spirit and hot air at a temperature of 260°F. was discharged through armoured hosepipes. As well as drying out damp walls, hot air was blown into the floor space under boarded floors.

The machines were in continuous daily use including every week-end for the six weeks they were here and sanitary inspectors were in attendance with the aircraftsmen.

The work of these two aircraftsmen was of the highest order and was fully appreciated by the public as well as by the department.

Details of the properties flooded, etc., are as follows :—	
Private dwelling houses	421
Business premises (including food shops, licensed premises, hotels, chemists and industrial premises)	216

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human food :—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Sugar	3	6	2	—
Butter	—	—	3	14
Margarine	—	2	1	—
Cooking Fat	—	2	—	1
Cheese	—	—	2	9
Bacon	—	1	2	4
Meat	—	6	3	—
Eggs	—	2	—	11
Tea	—	3	2	7
Salt	—	1	3	2
Pepper	—	—	—	8
Mustard	—	—	2	17
Pickles	—	—	1	10
Spices	—	—	—	7
Ginger	—	—	—	7
Malt	—	—	—	1
Beverages	—	—	3	—
Jam	—	10	3	3
Dried Fruit	—	4	—	14
Mixed Peel	—	1	—	—
Coconut	—	1	—	26
Nuts	—	3	—	—
Fruit	—	—	1	7
Cereals	—	3	1	18
Flour	—	4	2	14
Bread	—	—	—	14
Puddings	—	—	3	21
Cake	—	1	—	18
Cake Mixture	—	1	—	—
Biscuits	—	14	2	14
Rice	—	1	2	17
Peas	—	3	1	14
Beans	—	—	2	16
Lentils	—	2	—	14
Sausage Rusk	—	2	—	—
Potted Meat	—	—	—	12
Suet	—	2	2	14
Smith's Crisps	—	—	2	5
Ice-cream Powder	—	—	—	24
Lemonade Powder	—	—	—	2
Custard Powder	—	—	3	14
Milk Powder	—	—	2	8
Bi-carb. of Soda	—	—	3	—
Miscellaneous	—	1	3	14
Ice-cream	—	8 gallons	—	—
Milk	—	12	“	—
Beer	—	213	“	—

In addition, 573 barrels of salt from the Herring pickling plots was found to be contaminated by flood water and therefore unsuitable for further use ; and 3 tons 7 cwts. of dripping which was contaminated was certified as unfit for human consumption but suitable for reduction to tallow.

Seventeen pigs were drowned and after inspection of the bodies, arrangements were made for the disposal of same.

SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AND FLOODED HOUSES

The Chairman of the Housing Committee, Alderman W. Amy, J.P., the Housing Manager and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, together visited the seriously damaged and flooded houses and 16 families were rehoused immediately on the authority of the Chairman.

Tribute has already been paid by the Council to the work of the willing band of official and voluntary workers who responded so magnificently during the emergency. We in the Health Department would like to place on record our special appreciation of the help we received from Councillor A. T. Jensen whose home "The Rising Sun" was one of our centres of operation.

Finally, we wish to record our appreciation of the ready help and willing co-operation accorded by the Borough Engineer and his staff. Our requests were numerous and varied, but without exception or question every request was carried out despite the fact that the tasks confronting them were vital and urgent.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A summary of the inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors is as follows :—

Bakehouses	44	Cafes and Restaurants	67
Dairies and Milk Vendors	138	Fish Curers	202
Fishmongers	21	Food Preparers	82
Fried Fish Shops	31	Greengrocers	13
Grocers	261	Hotels	10
Ice-cream Vendors and Makers	98	Markets	108
Licensed Premises	16	Slaughterhouses	282
Meat shops, Stores, Stalls	99	Other matters	27

MILK SUPPLY

Registration and Licences

Retail purveyors of milk .....	.....	.....	.....	34
Licensed pasteurisers of milk .....	.....	.....	.....	2
(1 High Temperature short time and 1 Holder Process)				
Licences to use designation Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised Milk)				1
Supplementary licences for sale of Pasteurised milk .....	.....	.....	.....	21
Supplementary licences for sale of T.T. (Pasteurised) milk .....	.....	.....	.....	4
Supplementary licences for sale of T.T. milk .....	.....	.....	.....	21
Supplementary licences for sale of Accredited milk .....	.....	.....	.....	3

One holder of licence to pasteurised milk ceased business during the latter part of the year.

Regular sampling of the milk supplied was carried on throughout the year and the results of the samples were:—

	<i>Tuberculin</i>	<i>T.T.</i>			
	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Past.</i>	<i>Accredited</i>	<i>Ungraded</i>
No. of samples	20	77	12	4	21
Satisfactory	19	75	10	4	20
Unsatisfactory	1	2	2	—	1

One sample of T.T. milk failed the methylene blue test. Two samples of Pasteurised and two samples of T.T. Pasteurised milk failed the Phosphatase Test.

One sample of milk which was subject to the tests for graded raw milk failed the methylene blue test.

B. Coli was again present in some of the samples of pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised milk. Extensive routine sampling at one of the Pasteurising dairies established the possible sources of contamination and after a daily routine of steam sterilisation and cleansing of equipment was instituted, no further trouble was experienced. This proved once again that strict attention to the cleansing and sterilisation of all dairy equipment and bottles is essential. Once a daily cleansing routine is established it is not a difficult matter to maintain the same. If only these troublesome germs could be seen by the naked eye, how much easier would be the task of both operatives and officials dealing with food hygiene.

Seventy-nine samples of milk were examined in the laboratory of the Health Department for fat and solids not fat content. 71 were genuine and 8 not genuine; of the 8 unsatisfactory samples follow-up samples were found to be genuine with one exception. This was submitted as a formal sample to the Public Analyst and is dealt with later in the report.

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for manufacture .....	.....	7
No. of premises registered for sale of ice-cream .....	.....	174

Twenty-eight samples were submitted for bacteriological examination by the Pathologist at Ipswich. Twenty-three samples were Grade 1, three samples Grade 2, and two samples Grade 4.

The two samples Grade 4 were from different manufacturers. In the first case, advice was given to the manufacturer regarding sterilisation of his equipment and samples taken during the remainder of the year were all Grade 1.

In the second case, the manufacturer was interviewed and it was found that he was not complying with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1951. After discussion, he decided to cease manufacture of ice-cream and obtain ice-cream from one of the National manufacturers, and accordingly his licence to manufacture was withdrawn.

Fifteen samples were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst and of these 13 were satisfactory as regards fat content and total solids and 2 were unsatisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

Once again 100% inspection was carried out of the animals slaughtered in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Old Market Plain ; 5,583 animals being slaughtered. The Health Committee again considered the unsatisfactory conditions existing at the slaughterhouse and meetings were arranged with representatives of the adjoining Local Authorities to discuss the slaughtering facilities in the area. It was felt that possibly a public abattoir capable of coping with all the requirements of these authorities might be considered by the Ministry, but during discussions it appeared that such a proposal would not receive the support we had anticipated. The Government have declared their policy to be one of moderate concentration of slaughtering and an Inter-departmental Committee are considering this problem. Until the findings are reported there is no possibility of a municipal abattoir.

The details of the animals slaughtered and particulars of condemnations are tabulated below :—

	<i>Cattle</i> <i>excluding</i> <i>Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i> <i>and</i> <i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1021	201	717	1790	1854
Number Inspected	1021	201	717	1790	1854
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	2	—	9	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	362	73	—	35	159
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	35.46%	37.32%	—	2.46%	9.06%
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	2	2	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	78	44	—	—	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.84%	22.84%	—	—	2.10%

6 tons, 12 cwts., 2 qrs., 19 lbs. of meat was found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption. Causes of condemnation other than tuberculosis included :—

Abscesses, Actinomycosis, Angioma, Bruising, Cirrhosis, Distomatosis, Dropsy, Emaciation, Gangrene, Injuries, Jaundice, Johnes Disease, Mammitis, Melanosis, Necrosis, Nephritis, Parasitic infestations, Pericarditis, Pneumonia, Septic Metritis and Swine Fever.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

132 samples (9 formal and 123 informal) were submitted for examination by the Public Analyst at Norwich and 16 were found to be unsatisfactory.

The Analyst reported the following samples to be genuine :— Almo-flav 1, almond essence 1, anchovy fish paste 1, butter drops 1, braised beef steak and onions 2, braised beef steak 2, beef steak 2, baking powder 1, beef sausages 10, backache pills 1, bi-carbonate of soda 1, boric acid ointment 1, beer 2, butter 1, bloater fish paste 1, beef and ham meat paste 1, celery cheese spread 1, coffee and chicory essence 1, curry powder 1, cream 2, cooking fat 1, crab fish paste 1, chicken and ham meat paste 1, fish cakes 1, ground ginger 1, ground white pepper 1, ground cinnamon 1, ham and tongue meat paste 1, iodine 1, ice-cream 13, junket powder 1, lemon curd 1, malt vinegar 1, meringue powder 1, milk 3, pineapple juice 1, pepper 1, pork sausage 30, self-raising flour 2, sponge flour mixture 1, salmon and shrimp fish paste 3, sherry flavouring 1, saccharin 1, shrimp fish paste 1, sardine and tomato fish paste 2, pilchard and tomato fish paste 1, salmon and tomato fish paste 2, salmon and anchovy fish paste 2, table jelly 1, tea 1, vinegar 1, yeast 1, shredded suet 1.

The unsatisfactory samples were :

Ammoniated tincture of quinine.	10% deficient in ammonia. Inspection revealed that stock was made up in large bottles and over a period precipitation took place. Chemist agreed to make up smaller quantities at a time.
Rum & Butter Drops.	Rum absent, fat less than 0.2%. Vendor warned.
Butter Drops.	2.1% butter fat instead of 4%. Vendor warned.
Butter Drops.	Fat 5.3% of which butter fat was only 0.5%. Follow-up sample genuine.
Butter Drops.	3.2% butter fat instead of 4%. Manufacturer interviewed—had not realised butter contains only 82/83% of fat. Warned to increase butter content in mix.
Butter Drops.	3.7% butter fat instead of 4%. Formal sample taken later proved satisfactory.

Ice-cream.	2 samples showed fat contents of 4.7% and 4.6% instead of 5%. Vendors interviewed, follow-up samples satisfactory.
Iodised throat tablet.	Two samples taken. Informal sample showed Iodine and Potassium Iodide to be absent altogether. Formal sample showed similar result. Manufacturers informed who stated that the stock had been supplied some considerable time, the shop-keeper admitted this. Stock destroyed. So far it has not been possible to obtain freshly delivered samples of this product.
Milk.	Formal sample 3.3% deficient in fat. Dairyman advised to bulk his milk. Repeat samples genuine.
Pickled Walnuts.	Declared list of ingredients included anchovies which appeared to be absent on analysis. Manufacturers informed who stated that anchovies were used together with spices and malt vinegar to prepare a liquor which was strained before being merged with the walnuts and bottled. Manufacturers suggested including anchovies under the heading of flavouring on their next supply of labels. The Public Analyst agreed to this suggestion.
Self Raising Flour.	Carbon dioxide 0.35%—12.5% deficient. Manufacturers informed who arranged for testing of all their ingredients. Further samples to be obtained.
Pork Sausages.	1 sample 58.9% meat content. 1 „ 52% „ „ 1 „ 55% „ „

The Public Analyst who considered that Pork Sausages should contain 65% meat stated that he would allow 5% for manufacturing tolerance and any samples falling below 60% meat content would be certified as non-genuine.

The Health Committee instructed the Chief Sanitary Inspector to obtain samples of all sausages sold in the Borough and as will be seen from the list of foods samples, 10 samples of beef sausages and 33 samples of pork sausages were submitted for analysis.

The 10 samples of beef sausages were all satisfactory on a basis of 50% meat content the meat content ranging from 50.7% to 79.7% and price from 1/6d. to 2/2d. per lb.

Of the 33 samples of Pork Sausages, 12 samples fell below the 65% meat content and in 3 cases already cited the meat content was below 60%. The meat content ranged from 52% to 85.3% and price from 2/3d. to 3/5d. per lb.

The Health Committee decided to write to the Association of Municipal Corporations suggesting that the legal standard for beef and pork sausages which was in force prior to March 1st should be the future legal standard.

The results of our sampling indicated that the meat content was not always governed by the price, and normally one would expect to receive the best quality goods at the top price.

STORES AND SHOPS

Details of the various foods examined and found to be unfit and voluntarily surrendered by the traders are summarised below:—

391	tins meat	45	tins soup
44	lbs. luncheon meat	21	jars pickle
6	lbs. jellied veal	1	jar pickled onions
1	lb. calves foot jelly	4	bottles sauce
17	jars meat paste	742	tins vegetables
82	lbs. meat pie	13	jars tomato paste
121	lbs. gammon	28	lbs. onions
645	lbs. bacon	21	lbs. haricot beans
282	lbs. ham	4	cwts. potatoes
803	lbs. pork sausages	17	lbs. tapioca
16	lbs. beef sausages	2	lbs. semolina
95	lbs. poultry	2	lbs. oats
1268	stones fish	1	packet sweet corn
1062	tins fish	5	packets breakfast cerea
15	jars fish paste	25	lbs. salt
33	jars shrimps	1	packet black pepper
5	jars prawns	17	lbs. flour
7	lbs. fish cakes	15	packets cake mixture
2627	tins fruit	3	packets sponge mixture
88	tins peach pulp	61	lbs. cake
14	lbs. lemons	2	lbs. Christmas pudding
60	lbs. sultanas	39	lbs. biscuits
44	lbs. currants	2384	chocolate wafers
30	lbs. raisins	38	chocolate tea cakes
94	jars jam	215	lbs. confectionery
28	jars mincemeat	3	packets marshmallow cream
4	jars marmalade	3	lbs. lemonade powder
2	tins syrup	2	packets desiccated coconut
2	jars honey	40	packets marzipan
1125	tins milk	2	packets ground almonds
36	jars cream	3	tins Vitacup
108	lbs. cheese	5	tins Nescafe
32	boxes cheese spread	4	bottles lemon barley water
3	jars sandwich spread		
3	jars welsh rarebit		
19	tins spaghetti		

Total weight:—13 tons, 12 cwts, 3 qrs., 2 lbs.

In addition, 10 cwts., 6 qrs., 25 lbs., of meat was inspected at the request of various butchers in the Borough and found to be unfit for food and voluntarily surrendered.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD SAMPLES AND WATER

Dr. Eric Wood, PH.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., the Public Analyst of Norwich undertook the analysis of samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and water samples, and I wish to express my appreciation of his help and advice during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

These were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. The Medical Officer in charge, Dr. P. H. Martin, readily advised me on the technique of various samplings and I wish to record my appreciation of the expeditious manner with which he dealt with our various samples and for his willing help and advice at all times.

LOWESTOFT
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year

1953

STAFF :

Port Medical Officer :

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



Port Health Inspectors :

H. CORMACK, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert Meat and Foods Inspector

F. W. Y. BUCKLEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert Meat and Foods Inspector



Offices :

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 123, High Street, Lowestoft
(Telephone : LOWESTOFT 782)

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Ships from</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>M.O.H.</i>	<i>Sanitary or having had Inspector during the voyage infectious disease on board</i>	<i>No. Inspected</i>	<i>Number of ships By the reported as having</i>
Foreign Ports	182	19302	15	52	52	—
Coastwise	426	48080	—	17	17	—
TOTAL	608	67382	15	69	69	—

TABLE B. SECTION II.

BRITISH FISHING VESSELS—*Number of Landings by British Fishing Vessels made in the Port during the year.*

	<i>Landings</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
TRAWLERS	1,946	116,760	1450
DRIFTERS	3,002	120,680	

CHARACTER OF THE PORT

The Port area of Lowestoft is divided into three separate entities, consisting of the Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Market used by Trawlers and Drifters for the landing of White Fish and Herring (during the season) and North and South Quays situated on the banks of Lake Lothing, west of the swing bridge and the yacht basin. The North and South Quays are used by the merchant ships carrying timber, salt, stone, etc. The west end of the North Quay is also used by Trawlers and Drifters for coaling and general repair work including dry docking and shipping.

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the Year*

There is no passenger traffic at this port, which is not approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) *Cargo Traffic*

Principal Imports : Timber, Salt.

Principal Exports :

During the year the principal exports from this port were as follows :—

15,089 crans of redded herring to the Mediterranean.

17,951 crans of pickled herring to Russia.

610 crans of herrings "Klondyked" to the Continent.

7,566 crans of marinated herring.

11,669 crans of herring canned.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which Vessels Arrive*

Hamburg, Boulogne, Calais, Rotterdam, Bordeaux, Bayonne, Esbjerg, Karlskrona, Amsterdam, Korlsborg, Bremerhaven, Ostend, Gothenburg, Dunkirk, Torre, Winkel, Flushing, Zeebrugge, Oslo, Bastia.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Port consists of fresh and salt water mains and the fishing port comprising Hamilton, Waveney and Trawl Docks is served by 5,160 ft. of fresh water main and 4,290 ft. of salt water mains. The discrepancy is occasioned by the absence of salt water supply to East, West and South wharves of the Trawl Market, these wharves are used only for docking purposes. There is no water supply to the South Quay but fresh water points are provided on the North Quay.

MARKET CLEANSING

The standard of cleansing on the fish market has continued to be very high and every praise is due to the staff responsible for this work. It has been noted that even during the more difficult period of the herring fishing with ships landing throughout the day, that the work of cleansing is carried out efficiently and methodically in such a manner that no "black spots" can be found.

FISH LANDINGS FOR THE YEAR

		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Value (£'s.)</i>
Brill .....	.....	2,341	18,102
Catfish .....	.....	529	989
Cod .....	.....	43,052	115,175
Conger .....	.....	524	1,312
Dab .....	.....	6,486	13,554
Dogfish .....	.....	1,608	3,154
Gurnard .....	.....	2,042	3,154
Flounder .....	.....	1,157	571
Haddock .....	.....	10,538	24,065
Hake .....	.....	143	891
Halibut .....	.....	54	694
Herrings (Trawled) .....	.....	282	386
Lemon Sole .....	.....	1,738	11,508
Ling .....	.....	249	243
Mackerel .....	.....	391	829
Megrims .....	.....	6	6
Monkfish .....	.....	497	961
Mullett, Red .....	.....	40	168
Plaice .....	.....	140,607	516,399
Pollack .....	.....	12	21
Saithe .....	.....	167	205
Skate .....	.....	18,511	66,671
Soles .....	.....	24,676	224,155
Turbot .....	.....	9,445	59,221
Whiting .....	.....	29,656	57,461
Witches .....	.....	226	722
Mixed Kits .....	.....	1,469	2,576
Roes .....	.....	266	1,513
Norway Lobsters .....	.....	18	106
<i>Total</i> .....	.....	296,730 cwts.	£1,124,905
Foreign landings .....	.....	25 cwts.	£59

HERRING FISHING

Landings and Values for 1953

<i>No. of landings</i>	<i>Quantity Crans</i>	<i>Value £</i>
2,783	114,447	423,904

INSPECTIONS.

Set out below are details of the inspections carried out of the fish market.

Fish market	348	Fish offal	6
Merchants' stands	847	Offices	17
Rats and Mice	3	Washing facilities	2

FISH PACKING

As will be seen from the table showing fish landings from trawlers, this section of the Fishing Industry causes more than one million pounds to be spent annually with its consequent trail of added prosperity to the town. Lowestoft continues to enjoy a considerable reputation as a port where prime fish in good condition is landed. Surely this amount of business and the reputation which has been so long maintained is worth keeping. Good fish which is fresh, properly landed, and sold to the merchants in good clean condition must be handled with the care which it deserves.

Whilst on the subject of packing, it is felt that some step should be taken to improve the containers. It has been said that the cost of providing fish boxes is extremely high. That is a question for the trade to settle and it is a question which appears to have been debated in other fishing ports. The fact remains that many boxes still used for despatching fish from Lowestoft Market have outlived their normal life and present an ever-increasing problem after their return to be washed before further use.

We may perhaps see the inauguration of a box pool in Lowestoft and a further step, a proper washing bay where boxes can be cleaned by pressure spraying and scrubbing and where clean, fresh water is used.

TRANSPORT OF FISH

No alteration has taken place in the methods of transport which are used, i.e., Road and Rail.

The ideal which has always been aimed for by the Port is the provision of properly refrigerated vans, and in this respect, it must be said that road transport has provided an answer. An improvement in rail facilities must be recorded in that a small washing bay has been provided for cleaning the fish trucks, but it is felt that a more definite step might have been taken. It is to be hoped that the provision of a washing bay with all facilities, clean fresh water, proper drainage, etc., might be made in the angle of land bounded by the Trawl Market on the south and Waveney Market on the north. This may prove the answer to the vexed question of cleaning trucks and boxes.

THE FLEET

Several new vessels have been added to the fleet during the year under review, many drifter/trawlers have been re-designed and some of the older ships have gone to the breakers.

The modern trend to diesel driven ships is particularly noticeable amongst the trawlers and there is a marked decrease in the number of coal burners sailing out of the port. The reasons, no doubt, are many, but principally economic, less space needed for engine room, more easy to maintain and considerably cleaner to operate, but one particularly noticeable feature is, that in spite of their age, in some cases 50 years or more, the fish landed from these vessels appears just as fresh and clean as that landed from their younger "sisters." Does vibration affect the appearance of fish which, although it is perfectly good, does not commend itself to the buying and consumer public.

Another particularly noticeable point is that trawlers which are kept at sea for periods of more than 12 days during the summer, do land fish which are not calculated to give any particular confidence in their ability to maintain a "fresh" appearance.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

Fishing vessels sailing from the Port have been regularly inspected and certificates issued under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.

The following summary for the year 1953 gives an indication of the manner in which this work is carried out and itemises the ships treated.

It is felt that the continued co-operation of ships' husbands in securing the cleanliness of ships, particularly in cabins, galleys and food lockers is having a marked effect in decreasing rat population and less complaints of infestation are being received by the Department.

SUMMARY OF PORT HEALTH RODENT CONTROL WORK FOR YEAR 1ST JANUARY, 1953—31ST DECEMBER, 1953

Trawlers and Drifters

No. of individual ships inspected	.....	240
No. of actual inspections	.....	768
No. found to be infested with rats	.....	34
No. treated for rats	.....	34

Coasters

No. of individual ships inspected	.....	17
No. of inspections	.....	21
No. found to be infested with rats	.....	NIL

Tankers

No. of individual ships inspected	.....	9
No. of actual inspections	.....	11
No. found to be infested with rats	.....	NIL

Motor Barges

No. of individual barges inspected	.....	22
No. of actual inspections .....	.....	33
No. found to be infested with rats .....	.....	NIL

Fisheries Research Vessels

No. of individual vessels inspected	.....	1
No. of actual inspections .....	.....	3
No. found to be infested with rats .....	.....	NIL

Sailing Yachts

No. of individual yachts inspected	.....	1
No. of actual inspections .....	.....	1

Salvage Ships

No. of individual ships inspected	.....	2
No. of actual inspections .....	.....	2
No. found to be infested with rats .....	.....	1
No. treated for rats .....	.....	1

VERMIN

476 individual inspections involving 197 ships (trawlers, drifters and various Yarmouth and Scotch drifters) disclosed that only 8 ships appeared to be infested with vermin. These vessels were disinfested by the Disinfesting Assistant. This latter number shows a decrease in the number of vessels infested when compared with the previous year when 18 vessels were disinfested.

CONCLUSION

The Chief Sanitary Inspector would like to take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Department for the ready and willing co-operation which has been accorded by all sections of the trade. It has not been necessary to write any letters, all approaches made to the trade have been personal ones and all our requests have received immediate attention. This spirit of willing co-operation between the trade and the officers facilitates our work and merits our sincere appreciation.

